

•Our Public Lands

SPRING 1976

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WILD HORSES ON THE NATIONAL RESOURCE LANDS —A STATUS REPORT

See Page 13

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE
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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Curt Berklund, Director

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources."

The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.

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Our Public Lands

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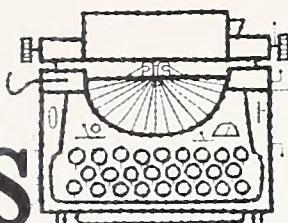
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NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

ENERGY — OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF

During calendar year 1975, the Department of the Interior held four oil and gas lease sales on the Nation's Outer Continental Shelf. Three of these sales were for tracts in the Gulf of Mexico including one for an area off the coast of south Texas. The final sale was for tracts off the coast of southern California. The four sales brought a total of \$1.08 billion for lease rights on 321 tracts totaling 1.7 million acres.

Action involving other Outer Continental Shelf areas include:

★ A final environmental impact statement issued for proposed OCS Sale #39. The proposal calls for the sale of 330 tracts covering 1.8 million acres in the northern Gulf of Alaska.

★ Hearings held on a draft environmental statement pertaining to OCS Sale #40 on January 27 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The proposal calls for the sale of 154 tracts covering 876,750 acres located in the Baltimore Canyon Trough area of the mid-Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf. The sale is tentatively scheduled for late spring of 1976.

★ Release of a final environmental statement for OCS Sale #41 proposed for the Gulf of Mexico. This sale was held in New Orleans in February and 135 tracts covering 698,077 acres.

★ An announcement of tract selection for OCS Sale #42 proposed for the north Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf. The list includes 206 tracts covering 1,172,796 acres selected from among tracts nominated by the oil and gas industry. The tracts are tentatively scheduled for sale in

August 1976. Before any final decision is made pertaining to this sale the Bureau of Land Management will prepare both draft and final environmental statements.

★ The nomination of 433 tracts totaling 2,136,135 acres located on the Outer Continental Shelf in Alaska's lower Cook Inlet. The nominations represent tracts the petroleum industry would like to see offered in a proposed sale tentatively scheduled for that area. This proposed sale is designated as OCS Sale #41. The Department will now evaluate the nominations, select tracts, and prepare both draft and final environmental statements before it reaches any firm decision about holding the sale.

★ The nomination of 778 tracts totaling 4,429,298 acres on the Outer Continental Shelf off the south Atlantic coast. This sale has been identified as OCS Sale #43. It is tentatively scheduled for the winter of 1976-77.

★ A call by the Department for nominations of tracts the industry would like to see offered in OCS Sale #46, proposed for the western Gulf of Alaska in the winter of 1976-77.

★ Development of Departmental regulation barring Petroleum companies showing production of more than 1.6 million barrels a day from jointly bidding with each other in Outer Continental Shelf lease sales. Out of 126 companies that submitted production reports to the Department of the Interior, nine companies will be affected by the new regulations.

★ Publication of Departmental regulations setting forth procedures for State participation in planning for OCS development.

ENERGY — OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

The Department has published new proposals to encourage the timely development of Federal coal leases. The new regulations would require the lease holder to produce one-fortieth of his estimated recoverable reserves within ten years from the date the lease was issued. Failure to comply with the regulations could result in cancellation of the lease if

the regulations are finally adopted. Proposed regulations were first published on December 11, 1974, but after a review of the comments received by the Department, Interior officials decided to publish a revised proposal rather than attempt to formulate final regulations.

The Department has issued a draft environmental statement pertaining to the proposed development of oil shale resources by the Colony Development Operation in Garfield County, Colorado.

OTHER MINERAL RELATED ACTIONS

A final environmental statement pertaining to phosphate mining on the Los Padres National Forest near Los Angeles, California was released on November 26.

The Department has scheduled a two-year study of the effects of phosphate mining on the Osceola National Forest in north Florida will have on the water and wildlife in the area.

Secretary of the Interior Thomas Kleppe has told commercial coral gatherers that the Department's recent emergency order to protect coral on the Nation's Outer Continental Shelf applies to the waters around Hawaii. The emergency order is effective until September 30, 1976. In the meantime, the Department is developing permanent regulations to protect coral resources of the Outer Continental Shelf.

GRAZING FEES

The Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture have announced new grazing fees for 1976. Fees for National Resource Lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management will be increased from \$1.00 per AUM to \$1.51. On the National Forest lands the fee will be increased from \$1.11 to \$1.60. An AUM is the equivalent of one cow grazing for one month.



California's

*California's King Range
Becomes Our First Designated
National Conservation Area*

JERRY HARRELL

California State Office



Lost Coast

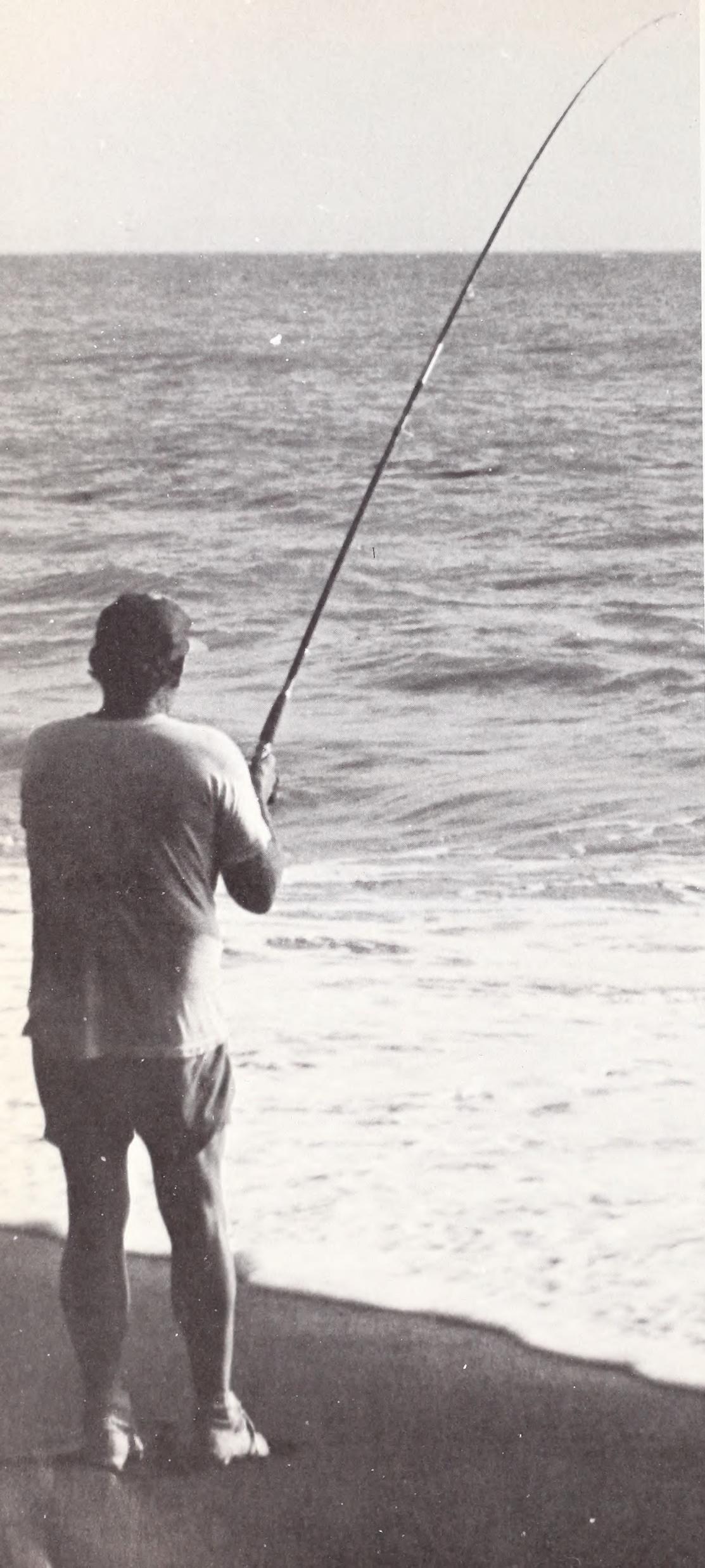
Arugged, isolated portion of California's north coast is the first National Conservation Area.

The area is the King Range, designated by Congress in 1970 to become the first national conservation area in the nation upon completion of a management plan by the Bureau of Land Management.

The King Range is unique. It is a spectacular meeting of land and sea, where mountains raise to 4,000 feet elevation just three miles from the Pacific surf. It is a

wilderness beach, where man can find solitude in the most populous state in the nation. It is a valuable commercial timberland, big game habitat, and a spawning area for salmon and steelhead. Within its exterior boundaries are a popular recreational fishing resort, a vital harbor of refuge for commercial fishermen and recreational boaters, and a recreational subdivision that has raised serious environmental questions.

The surrounding area is rich in history, including California's first



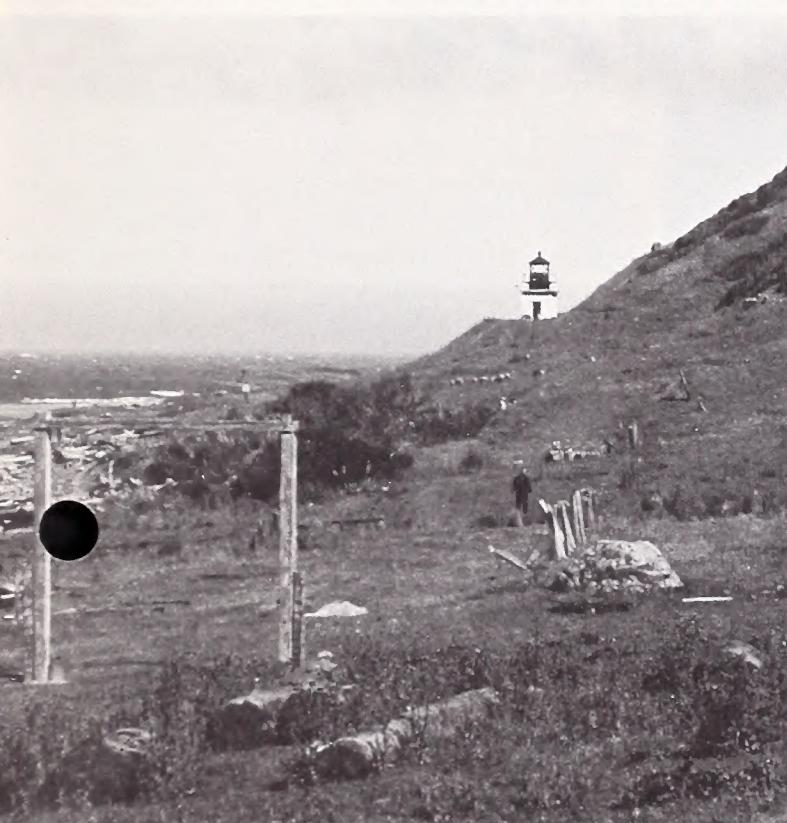
"The Shipwreck," a relic of the day of sailing ships, is one of the interesting features of the wilderness beach within the King Range National Conservation Area.

oil well at nearby Petrolia — incidentally a venture that was commercially unsuccessful. Within the conservation area is the old Coast Guard lighthouse at Punta Gorda that once guided ships around off-shore rocks. Although the King Range is in the heart of the Redwood Empire, by a curious combination of climate and geography only a few redwood trees grow within its boundaries. The area lies in Humboldt and Mendocino counties about 230 miles north of San Francisco.

The King Range, often called "California's lost coast" is also unique in the legal status it has been afforded by Congress.

The King Range Act, Public Law 91-476, provided for it to be designated as the first national conservation area after certain conditions were met. The Act has some special features of far-reaching significance: its provisions include land acquisition authority, cash equalization payments in land exchanges, and continued private ownership within the boundaries with some Federal authority to regulate uses; an approach to mineral development providing measures for environmental protection; and, finally, the concept of a conservation area to be managed for multiple-use in contrast to designations aimed at single or limited resource uses.

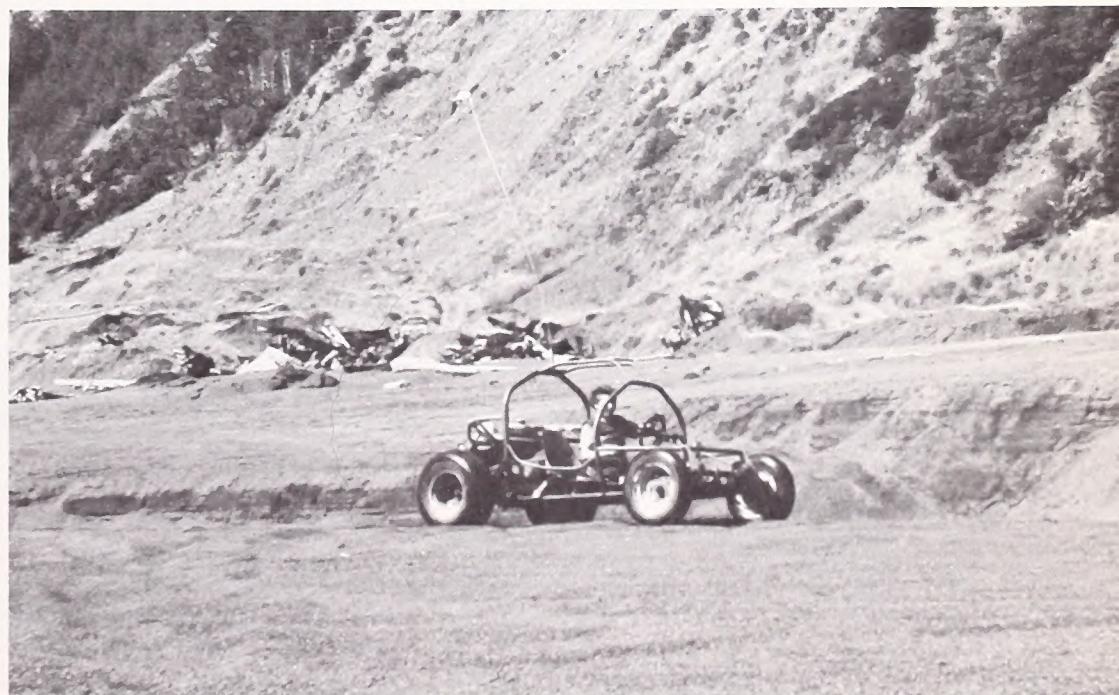
Congressman Don Clausen, author of the King Range Act, said "... in addition, the area is unique in the fact that it was the people of our own north coast who provided the impetus for the creation of the area and the support that was necessary to obtain its final enactment into law."



An abandoned lighthouse at Punta Gorda is another scenic attraction of the area.



The "lost coast" provides opportunities for many kinds of recreation. Here, a group enjoys camping on the beach.



Dune Buggies have used the beaches of the King Range for many years. BLM's management program restricts vehicle use to six of the 26 miles of beach within the King Range Area.

BLM's management plan for the King Range, completed in 1974 along with an environmental impact statement, is designed to meet the Act's charge "to consolidate and manage the public lands in the area with the purpose of developing for the use and benefit of the people of the United States the lands and other uses therein under a program of multiple usage and of sustained yield."

BLM started to acquire land within the area while the final plan was being completed so that values in key areas could be protected. When the program began, 30,427 acres out of a total of 54,199 acres to be included in the area were national resource lands administered by BLM. By late 1975, BLM had acquired an additional 6,715 acres in 16 transactions including 11 exchanges, four purchases and one condemnation action. An additional six transactions to acquire 2,752 acres are being processed. Completion of the program will leave approximately 6,500 acres of private



Seen from the north is King's Crest, now inside the Conservation Area. The King Range rises to a height of 4,087 feet only three miles from the beach.



A one-time native of the area who may return if BLM's plans are fully realized. Plans to reintroduce the Roosevelt elk are now being studied.

land inside the conservation area, including an existing subdivision at Shelter Cove.

The single condemnation resulted when BLM acquired 360 acres to stop logging on the fragile seaward slope of the King Range. The logging was in conflict with the management plan.

Ed Hastey, BLM California State Director said "... while timber harvest and intensive forest management will take place in other zones on the landward side of the range, the planned harvest above Big Flat would clearly be inconsistent with BLM's management objectives for the area."

BLM's program divides the King Range into seven management zones to meet a provision of the Act which requires "... the plan will indicate primary or dominant

uses which will be permitted in various portions of the area."

The Punta Gorda, Pacific Slope north of Shelter Cove, and Point No-Pass zones have recreation as their primary use; Shelter Cove and Whale Gulch will remain primarily residential; the Bear Creek Zone will have intensive forest management and timber production as its primary use; and Honeydew Creek's primary use will be for wildlife habitat.

Wildlife in the King Range includes blacktail deer, black bear, California or Valley quail, blue grouse, grey squirrel and bush rabbit. Several rare or threatened species including the peregrine falcon, spotted owl and California brown pelican have also been seen in the area. Sea lions, seals and numerous sea and shore birds

are found along the beaches. Salmon and steelhead spawn in the streams of the King Range, and several species of marine fish are found near shoal areas, rocks and kelp beds.

One animal that was native but is no longer found in the area is the Roosevelt elk. BLM's management plan proposes joint studies with California Fish and Game Department aimed at reintroduction of the elk to the range.

The King Range was dedicated as a national conservation area September 21, 1974.

Roland G. Robinson, Jr., Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Public Land Management, said in his dedicatory remarks, "We pledge ourselves to the policy of wise use that will assure the protection and productivity of these lands, resources and environmental values."

Norman B. Livermore, Jr., then Secretary for Resources, State of California, commented on the close state-federal working relationships involved in bringing the conservation area into being.

"Use of this area has not been decreed by Washington fiat but decided only after a positive merging of Federal, State and local goals. Equally important, its use has been decided only after BLM listened attentively to many Californians and to their expression of their goals."

One of those goals — designation of the Chemise Mountain Primitive Area — was achieved one year after the dedication. State Director Ed Hastey designated the 3,941-acre area overlooking the ocean to be managed for its primitive and wilderness qualities.

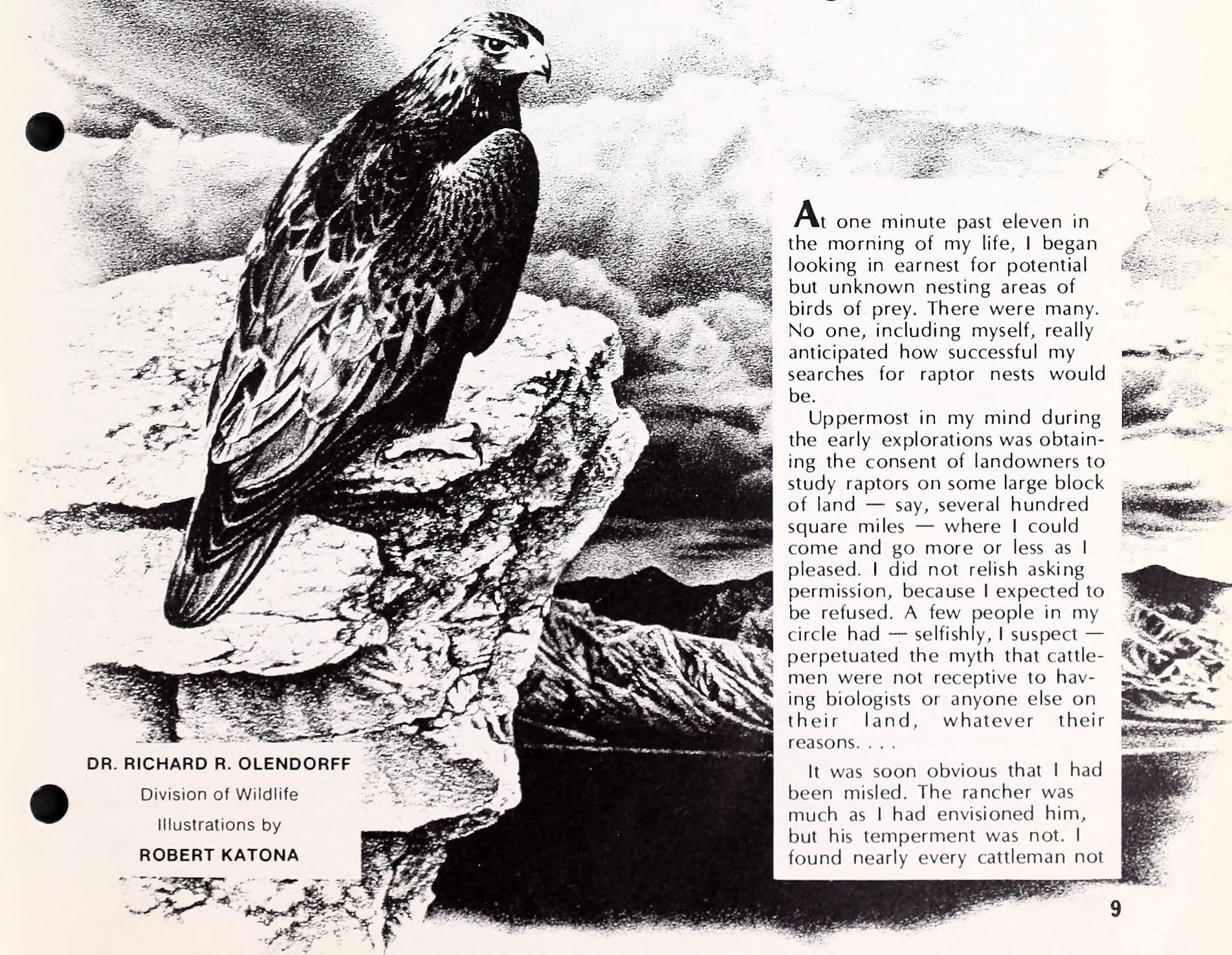
Congressman Clausen summed up the challenge of the King Range Designation in these words:

"The challenge of the past was to bring the area into being. The challenge of the future is to manage the area in a way that will permit a wide variety of activity to take place in the area to bring aesthetic and recreational pleasure to those who will come to visit and enjoy this remarkable setting."

Excerpt From A New Book Gives Us a
Glimpse of one of North America's
Majestic Birds



Golden Eagle Country



At one minute past eleven in the morning of my life, I began looking in earnest for potential but unknown nesting areas of birds of prey. There were many. No one, including myself, really anticipated how successful my searches for raptor nests would be.

Uppermost in my mind during the early explorations was obtaining the consent of landowners to study raptors on some large block of land — say, several hundred square miles — where I could come and go more or less as I pleased. I did not relish asking permission, because I expected to be refused. A few people in my circle had — selfishly, I suspect — perpetuated the myth that cattle-men were not receptive to having biologists or anyone else on their land, whatever their reasons. . . .

It was soon obvious that I had been misled. The rancher was much as I had envisioned him, but his temperament was not. I found nearly every cattleman not

DR. RICHARD R. OLENDORFF

Division of Wildlife

Illustrations by

ROBERT KATONA

only receptive to my plans but also willing to help by giving tips about the habits and whereabouts of raptors. They really did keep track of birds of prey, especially golden eagles.

One rancher, in particular made an immediate success of my initial searches by telling me of a small stone observation hut overlooking an eagle nest on a piece of property that had been in his family since the turn of the century. . . . I journeyed to the blind for the first time on March 18th, a warm day of over sixty degrees in the afternoon, and quite a change from two days before.

I dragged myself slowly through a small opening in the rear of the blind and looked cautiously over the edge of the peephole. An eagle was there! It must be the female, I thought. I was awed by her size, her air of greatness, and seeming omnipotence! Below her were thousands of acres of land virtually in her clutch. But she did not even glance at the blind; it had ceased to be a threat to her.

While I treasured the first good look at her, the wind increased noticeably. The whistles and hisses of its dash through the wires and across the face of the sandstone and conglomerate cliff were broken by distant rumblings of thunder. What a set-up for watching eagles — and for getting wet! I could see light through cracks in the roof of the blind, and sharp blasts of wind eddied through the gaping door, seeking my limited shelter. The Eagle Breaks were in for another bit of sculpting at the weather's hand. The runoff would join the wind and sand in eroding the twenty-five-million-year-old caprock of the cliff. A fierce gust bit the rock and pushed into every cavity and crevice as the sun faded behind the smooth leading edge of a rapidly approaching storm cloud.

The sky darkened, and the eagle's eyes closed wincingly to the bluster and first raindrops. She settled deeper into her nest or eyrie, and presented her shallowest profile to foil the chill. With her head low, she could no longer see, as I could, the small,

leafless trees immediately below her, or the broken foundation of an abandoned farmstead not a hundred feet to her left — from which this nest, the Foundation Eyrie, was named. . . .

The eagle faced the wind conscious perhaps only through the faint coercion of instinct of the greater shelter that her alternate nest sites would have provided. I later found two such nests farther east along the Breaks. Both faced south or southwest, with their "backs" more to the prevailing winds, but some of her species nested farther west than in previous years, too close to these substitute sites, a fact I discovered later the same day. Apparently, after nonviolent jostling of territorial boundaries between the pairs — a behavior I have never seen — she and her mate had repaired the sequestered nest by the deserted homestead.

Rain fell for less than fifteen minutes. The eagle, in fulfillment of a motherly solicitude, lay close over her nest after the storm, leaving me unsure of its contents. Beads of water rolled from her back, and each collected several other drops before all were spattered over the edge of the nest cup. She continued to shake raindrops from her head with annoyed, nodding motions. The rock overhang above her head did not fend off rain driven by winds from the northwest.

She had an unrestricted view of the prairie to the south when she sat erect, and she kept idle visual contact with an unknowing

coyote that moved away below the Breaks. The coyote, heavy with pups, had sought shelter from the storm two hundred yards north in what was to become her den. The eagle watched the coyote until it was over a mile away, reappearing only atop each of the undulations of prairie. Even the stealth of a coyote is not secret.

After ten or fifteen minutes, the eagle stood up momentarily and I could see two eggs — new life before the onset of spring. As I continued to enjoy this long-awaited treat, the male eagle appeared over the hill to the northwest, unaware of my watchful eyes peering from behind binoculars in the blind. Probably having weathered the rain in a large cottonwood tree near Antelope Reservoir, he was returning with a freshly killed rabbit. Despite the encumbrance of the two-pound cottontail slung below his eight or nine pounds, he accomplished his arrival on the cliff, between me and the nest, gracefully and skillfully. He could have carried two such rabbits, although not much more than that.

The female eagle stayed over her eggs, but watched her mate closely. She was noticeably larger than the tiercel (as most male birds of prey are called). Unfortunately, the size difference was not always apparent when each was alone; indeed, determining the sex of live eagles is difficult because the size and weight of the sexes overlap. My colleagues grumble incessantly about this

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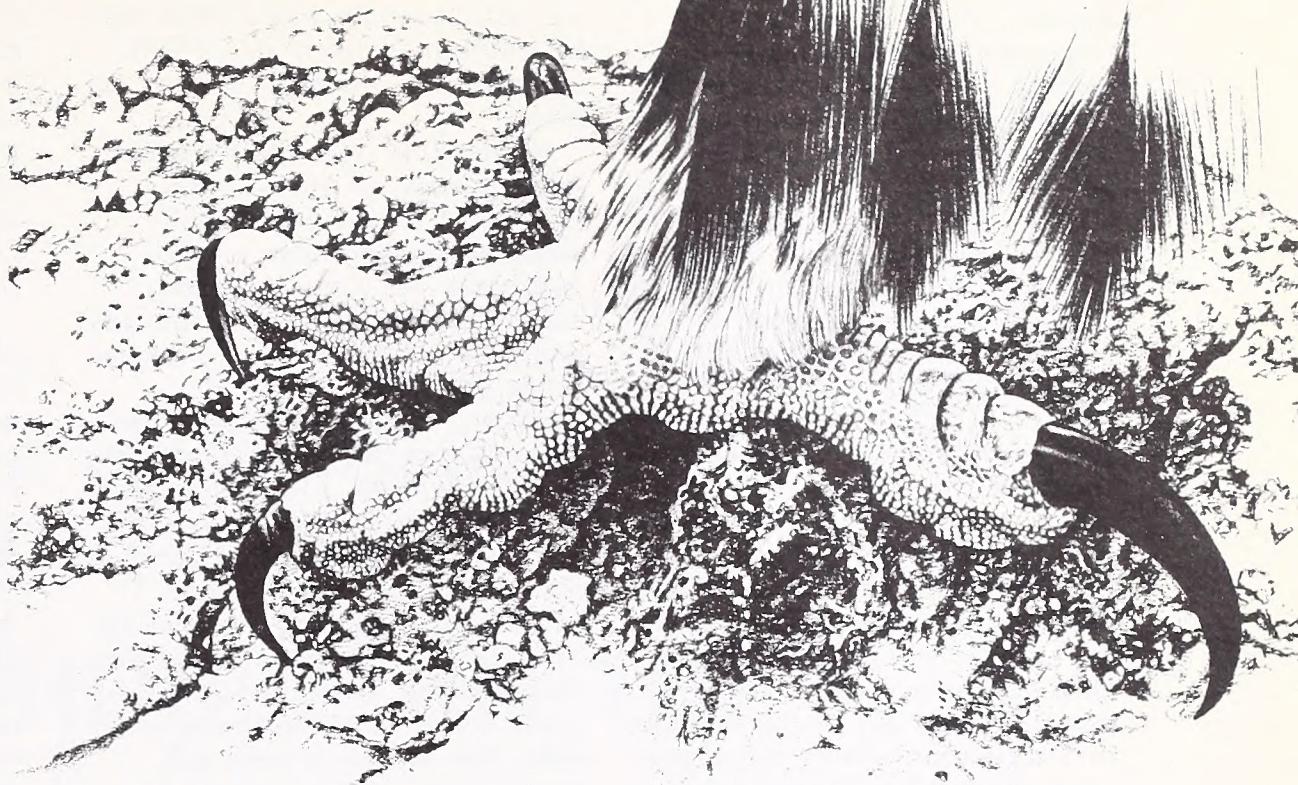
shortcoming in their expertise. . . .

At the Foundation Eyrie, the female's thirteen or fourteen pounds did provide her with slightly broader and taller stature than her mate's. She and others like her rank in size with other birds of prey in North America below only California condors and, possibly, the large bald eagles of Alaska. And her mate did have a smaller head, less massive feet, and the look of tiercel, evidenced, in large part, by subtle behavioral expressions, mannerisms, and poise.

The tails of the golden eagles — hers nearly sixteen inches long and marbled with diffuse wisps of tan — are lighter brown than their backs. Their flanks and tarsi are covered, completely to their toes, with short, light brown feathers. This led to the term "Booted eagles" for golden eagles and kindred species throughout the world.

About half of the almost sixty species of eagles in the world are booted eagles. The golden eagle is the only booted eagle found in North America north of Mexico, and the only eagle of the genus *Aquila* in the New World. A fine one it is though; we are fortunate to have it in our midst. Seeing their size, strength, and boldness at close range at the Foundation Eyrie made me appreciate more than before why eagles fly high in the symbolic creations of artists, the beautiful metaphors of poets, and the lofty ideas of many philosophers. Too bad these positive aspects are only slightly more prevalent than the myths, malice, and mysteries that, in the absence of knowledge, have grown apace in the minds of some farmers, ranchers, hunters, and others who oppress eagles and other predatory animals for supposed personal gain. But that is material for a different book.

The three other types of eagles in the world include four species of snake eagles, four harpy eagles, and ten sea eagles. Snake eagles occur only in the Old World. As their name suggests, serpents are their primary food. Most are small to medium-sized eagles, not much larger than the red-tailed hawk, a



common North American soaring hawk. The word "eagle" does not always imply large size.

Among the harpy eagles, on the other hand, are some of the world's largest birds of prey. All live in the tropical forest of New Guinea, the Philippines, Mexico, and Central and South America. They are the most formidable of aerial predators.

The bald eagle, the national bird of the United States, is a sea eagle. It is an uncommon bird near the Eagle Breaks, present only in winter. The two eagles of North America are not very closely related; each is at the end of a different line of evolution in the family of birds known as the Accipitridae. This family includes all kites, hawks, eagles and Old World vultures.

The bald eagle gets its name from the white plumage of the heads of adults; their tails are also white. Many who know the aggressive ways of golden eagles look upon bald eagles as lack-luster scavengers. I have seen them disturb a gull colony off Kodiak Island, in Alaska, every few minutes to steal a gull chick as food for eagle chicks at a nest in the mainland. Bald eagles also patrol salt-water beaches, river-banks, and lake shores, looking for dead or dying fish and other animal remains. In the absence of an easily obtained meal, however, they can catch their own live

fish, pirate one from an osprey, or actively pursue a full-grown waterfowl, gulls, rabbits, and other animals when and where the circumstances dictate.

Thus, Benjamin Franklin was partially, but not wholly, justified almost two centuries ago in suggesting that the North American turkey would be a more reputable symbol of a vigorous new nation. In a letter to Sarah Bache, Franklin lamented:

"I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our country; he is a bird of bad moral character; like those among men who live by robbing, he is generally poor, and often very lousy."

I am quite happy Franklin lost his bid, because without laws protecting bald eagles, which have been encouraged by the symbolism, there would certainly be fewer eagles today, both balds and goldens. This book might then have been a pessimistic account of the golden eagle's future. But there was no reason for pessimism at the Foundation Eyrie. Its occupants and their surroundings, all freshened by the passing storm and then brightened by the sun's reappearance, stood like a vibrant painting designed from my anticipatory dreams during the preceding months. What a setting for golden eagles! Bird songs, smells of spring air cleansed by rain, the wide-open spaces, and

the chill of rain-drenched clothes assailed all my senses at once. I responded by shivering less — or, at least, I did not think about the dampness as my consciousness attempted to sort out nature's stimulants. Too few people have ever experienced, so closely and so completely free from the pangs of day-to-day living, the warming solitude of an eagle nest.

Does the eagle hear other birds? Does he know the freshness of March from the harshness of December — in July? Perhaps the poet would be the better judge. I must not look at him too technically to feel the embrace of a warm breeze as he does — if he does! Does an eagle ever smell the sage? The rain? The cattle? Does he "enjoy" a prairie morning? Perhaps in the freedom of imagination others can experience the golden sunrise exactly like an eagle, but I cannot.

In the center of the vibrant scene was the nest, a large platform of sticks up to two inches in diameter, neatly stacked on a slightly overhung ledge. It was topped with a nearly complete ring of light brown shredded yucca root and dead yucca spears. An occasional green yucca plant had been built in or flattened onto the surface around a nest cup lined with smaller yucca spears and dry grass. Among the sticks were several cow ribs and a large leg bone, all bleached white by several years of exposure to the sun. Even short pieces of barbed wire had found their way into the nest in the Eagle Breaks. Antlers of small deer often appear in eagle nests, as do burlap bags, rags, newspapers, stockings, and other litter.

Below the nest, on the bare rock of the vertical cliff, bright orange lichens colored the stone. Certain lichens apparently derive some necessary nutrient from the whitewash or excrements of birds, enabling the lowly plants to live on the austere provisions of rocks. Soil below the nest supported several grasses and other plants more characteristic of the prairie to the south than of the ground under the cliff. Seeds brought by eagles, particularly cheatgrass and Russian thistle seeds adhering to prey of years past, drop to the ground

and germinate. During the growing season, some eagle nests can be pinpointed from afar if one notices such unusual clumps of plants.

Within four feet of the bulky accumulation of sticks were dozens of mud nests of cliff swallows glued under a small overhang. All were in various states of disrepair, with entrances worn by wind and rain to several times the normal size for swallows. They were mere foundations, like the pioneer's house below the bluff. Many cliff nests of raptors in the West have swallow colonies nearby, partly for protection afforded the smaller birds by large, predatory birds two to three hundred times their weight, and partly just because there is an overhang available. The swallows were still weeks away, just preparing to leave their Central and South American wintering grounds.

Other birds nest among the sticks of eagle nests. A pair of house sparrows were already constructing a nest deep within the Foundation Eyrie to take advantage of the sanctuary of a bird sufficiently large to defend against most mammalian predators, but too large to catch small, agile sparrows and swallows. The animation of sparrows flitting in and out with small pieces of dry grass enhanced the charm of the nest scene.

On top of the cliff, in the foreground a little to the left of the eyrie, was the rabbit, its shiny winter coat showing no evidence of shedding. It was held down by the tiercel eagle's bright yellow feet, each toe tipped with a sharp black talon buried half an inch in fur and flesh. I could hear him rip the flesh and crack small bones with a sharply hooked steel-black beak that protruded at its base from a fleshy yellow cere. His tools were finely honed and effective; he plied a good knife and fork, both in the quantity of food eaten and the expediency of doing so.

His deep brown eyes searched the fare for easy bites, but often shifted to his incubating mate or to something outside my visual range. Perhaps the coyote was still busy gleaning a meal from the

prairie, or a passing marsh hawk was doing the same. Golden eagles are said to have eight-power eyes, although no one really knows. Whatever their ability, I must use blinds and good optics — spotting scopes, binoculars, and telephoto lenses — to compete in the world of far-sighted birds of prey.

Finally the male eagle stepped off the kill and flew to the nest. His mate left gracefully, circled out over the trail and then flew back to the cottontail. Her movements reflected rays of sun from golden hackles. Both were beautifully crowned — golden eagles, the King and Queen of Birds, *Aquila chrysaetos*, common, figurative, and scientific names, respectively, given them by early ornithologists, and Linnaeus to establish their regal and technical positions among all birds.

Less than a hundred feet from me was a type of excellence recognized by Aristotle three hundred and fifty years before the coming of Christ; by kings such as Henry VII, who, by decree, reserved eagles for an emperor's recreation during the heyday of falconry in the Middle Ages; and by many of today's naturalists — amateur and professional — whose store of knowledge not available to Aristotle — allows ever more appreciation of natural things.

I remember asking myself many questions while sitting in the blind at the Foundation Eyrie. "If I had Aristotle's wisdom, Henry VII's power and unlimited finances, and today's technology and leisure, what could I do for eagles?" The question was presumptuous, but there was only one answer: everyone must see the beauty of an eagle's pursuit of prey; and everyone must understand the complexity of an eagle's biological needs.

The eagle's needs are his message to mankind, because where an eagle can breathe, procreate, and roam, so can man! Clearly a place must be made for eagles so that we may withstand the test of time with them.

Where Do We Stand With Our Program For the Wild Horse and Wild Burro?

THE WILD HORSE ON THE NATIONAL RESOURCE LANDS

A Status Report

BOB SPRINGER

Range Conservationist
and

NANCY MANZI

Staff Assistant

Last January, cattlemen in the Burns, Oregon, area got some bad news.

The news was that they wouldn't be allowed to graze as many cattle on public range lands as usual this Summer, and that the grazing period permitted could be shortened by as much as two months.

The reason? Because overgrazing by wild horse herds has reduced forage on both private and public range land to such a low level that there isn't enough food for either horses or cattle.

One longtime area cattlemen who is said to face the loss of his livelihood filed a damage claim with the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management, which administers both grazing and wild horse management programs, for damages he says the wild horses caused to his private land. His land is interspersed with public land.

The BLM district manager who announced the reduction in grazing allotments understood what local reaction would be. He added later that he still had to manage the land according to the law.

The law in this case is the Wild Free Roaming Horse and Burro

Act of 1971, which gave BLM and the U.S. Forest Service responsibility for management, protection and control of wild horses and burros on national resource lands and national forests.

While the Act was passed by Congress in response to public concern about the welfare of wild horses and burros, there is a curiously ironical twist to the unhappy Oregon story; some of the horses the law was designed to protect are themselves malnourished because of overgrazing. Said one Burns resident, "The horses are the real losers . . . there are already colts up there near starvation . . ."

The ranchers' grievance can be simply stated: In the competition between wild horses and cattle for scarce food on the seriously impacted range, the horses stay and the cattle have to go elsewhere. Most ranchers express a kindred feeling toward the wild horse. The issue is not the horse's "extinction," but a control over proliferating numbers.

BLM's dilemma is clearly perceived, though the solution to its administrative problems remains clouded by uncertainties.

Under the Wild Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act, "excess"

horses may be rounded up and placed in new "homes" with qualified private owners through maintenance agreements worded in such a way as to assure that the animals are properly cared for and are not exploited commercially.

In Oregon, as in other States with sizeable wild horse populations, such roundups have been conducted. But, say BLM officials, they have been expensive and less than effective in significantly reducing wild horse herds.

The present law, in fact, provides few options for removal and dispersal of large numbers of horses. The law does not permit transfer of title to horses or their sale to qualified owners. Nor does it allow use of helicopters to increase the effectiveness of round-up operations.

From BLM's viewpoint, few issues it has been called upon to deal with in its 30-year history have generated more controversy or stirred such deep emotions as has the Bureau's program to manage wild horses and burros. Interest in and affection for wild horses, it would seem, is universal. Over the years, BLM has received thousands upon thousands of letters from throughout the country on the subject of wild horses or "mustangs." Many of these have asked for assurance that the animals would continue to be allowed to run free. And wild horses have been the focus of major film and television productions, even by the prestigious National Geographic Society.

Current inventories show that there are an estimated 50,000 wild horses and burros on public lands in the Western States. Of the wild horse total, about 25,000 are in Nevada and 7,000 in Oregon. These figures represent a sharp increase in horse populations since 1971, when the law to protect horses and burros was passed. What is more, the herds in some areas are growing at an estimated rate of about 20 percent a year.

These are the Government's own best estimates. In fairness, it should be noted that the figures have been disputed by some individuals and representatives of humane and horse protection groups.

But if the total population figures are indeed fairly accurate, as BLM officials believe they are, and, if the high growth rate continues in the future, the implications for all concerned — public land managers responsible for the welfare of the horses and the upgrading of range conditions, humane groups, the livestock industry, and wildlife and conservation groups, among others — are considerable.

Such a continuing high herd growth rate would mean that about 8,000 to 10,000 horses will have to be removed from the range each year — merely to maintain herd sizes, much less reduce the numbers of animals to manageable levels.

Elsewhere on the National Resource Lands, the problem of proliferating wild horses is equally serious.

In Nevada's Stone Cabin Valley area, BLM officials report that the range has been overgrazed by a combination of cattle, wildlife and nearly 1,000 wild horses. Area ranchers agreed to voluntary reductions in livestock use, and 230 wild horses were humanely removed from the declining range for eventual "adoption" placement with qualified private owners.

An executive of the Humane Society of the United States, after making an aerial inspection of Stone Cabin Valley before a roundup began last July, said BLM's claim that the valley was overpopulated with wild horses was "totally inaccurate," and, charged that the Bureau "has become a slave to cattle raisers' vested interests."

Such a statement candidly expresses a commonly held viewpoint of certain horse protection groups. Yet, in Nevada the problem of range deterioration and a proposed horse control program brought a different public reaction. Prominent national and state horse protective associations, wildlife and conservation groups supported the need for measures to protect the vegetative resources. Several of the organizations participated in and monitored the horse roundup to assure humane treatment during

the gathering.

In other Western States, wildlife biologists and conservationists have warned that growing numbers of wild horses and burros pose a serious threat to deer, bighorn sheep and antelope populations because of intensified competition for range land forage.

To add another dimension to the dilemma, the State of New Mexico has challenged the constitutionality of the Wild Horse and Burro Act, claiming that it is the State's right to manage horses and burros.

While waiting for the Supreme Court to rule on the constitutionality of the Wild Horse law, BLM continues to administer its program for wild horses and burros on the National Resource Lands. Federal legislation calls for the protection, management and control of wild horses and burros, and these three items make up the cardinal parts of the Bureau's program.

The greatest threat to the wild horse in modern times has been the commercial mustanger under contract to deliver horses to processing plants. Such operations took a heavy toll of the wild horse population.

Those commercial roundups were facilitated through the use of aircraft and other motorized vehicles to locate the animals and to herd them into corrals where they were loaded for shipment.

Congress outlawed the use of aircraft and motorized vehicles in the roundup of wild horses and burros when it passed the "Wild Horse Annie" Act in 1959. The Wild Horse and Burro Act of 1971 went further when it prohibited all commercial traffic in wild horses in any form or fashion. The 1971 Act also made the Bureau of Land Management responsible for the enforcement of violations of the Federal laws pertaining to wild horses on National Resource Lands.

The Bureau started to recruit an enforcement staff in 1974 and now has enforcement personnel located in Washington, D.C.; Billings, Montana; Boise, Idaho; Salt Lake City, Utah; Reno, Nevada; and Phoenix, Arizona. In keeping

with their several responsibilities, these men are available to investigate all reported violations of the Wild Horse Act and subsequently empowered to make arrests and prosecute those responsible for the violations.

BLM has set aside three areas where the wild horse is the dominant user of National Resource Lands. Domestic livestock grazing is not authorized in these three areas so that wild horses and wildlife have the benefit of all the forage produced within the area.

In other areas where wild horses share the range with domestic animals, BLM is allotting forage to meet the needs of the wild horse.

BLM biologists holding wildlife and range management degrees are making studies of the life history of the wild horse and of the social relationships that exist within the wild horse herd. Hopefully the information gathered from these studies will give us further clues for developing a positive program of management of wild horses just as similar studies have contributed to the management of other wild animals.

The Wild Horse Act provides three legal ways to control wild horse populations.

1. Excess horses may be re-located on other areas of the public land,
2. They may be removed from the range and placed in the care of qualified individuals or organizations willing to provide the animal a home, and finally
3. Excess animals may be destroyed in a humane manner.

The first of these options is limited, since the law also limits the areas where horses may be released to those having a wild horse population prior to 1971.

All such areas already have increasing herds of wild horses and such an alternative is not feasible.

The third option provides the ultimate solution. However the Bureau seeks to avoid this kind of control whenever possible.

For the present, the Bureau is attempting to control the population of wild horses by placing them in "foster homes." Between 600 and 700 animals have been re-

moved from over-populated areas of the public range and placed in the care of private individuals and organizations from Texas to Montana and from California to New York.

Although the foster home concept now seems to be the most desirable method to control excess numbers, it also has limitations. Under the Wild Horse Act, horses placed in the care of private individuals remain in Federal ownership. Since the person receiving the horse does not get full control or title, he cannot sell the horse or otherwise dispose of it without the consent of the Bureau. This limited control and restriction causes many persons, otherwise willing to care for a wild horse, to refuse to participate in the program. Regardless, the Bureau still has the responsibility to monitor the well-being of "adopted" horses now widely scattered across the country.

The foster home concept is also an expensive means of controlling the wild horse population. It may cost in excess of \$300 to catch a wild horse and place him in the care of a private individual. This includes the capture and the feeding and care of the animal until a private home can be found. If there are a large number of horses involved, it can take from 1 to 3 weeks before the "foster owners" can arrive from the various parts of the United States to receive custody of their horses. Frequently persons who ask to be given custody of a wild horse change their minds at the last minute and refuse to accept the responsibility for an animal.

In the midst of the controversy that has raged around the management of the wild horse, the Bureau of Land Management seeks a course between the extremes. It does not want to see the wild horse disappear. It believes that, in proper perspective, the wild horse historically and ecologically has a place on the National Resource Lands.

In order to provide public input into the wild horse program, Congress provided for an advisory board to consult with the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture on matters pertaining

to the management of wild horses as a part of the 1971 law. Shortly after the National Board was organized, it was instrumental in developing regulations to implement the Wild Horse Act. In July 1973, the Board passed a resolution calling for a modification of the present law, in order to make management less difficult and less expensive. If adopted by Congress the suggested amendments would:

Authorize the Secretaries to sell or donate excess animals to private individuals or organizations without restrictions on written assurance that such animals would receive humane treatment, and to use aircraft in the round-up and inventory of wild horses, provided such use was supervised by a duly authorized employee of the Department.

A bill to this effect has been introduced into Congress by Virginia Congressman G. William Whitehurst and is pending at this time.

The final chapter in the story of the wild horse on the public range has not yet been written, and many questions are still unanswered. There are also certain realities that must be faced. Undisputedly the wild horse is there, and his numbers are growing. Undisputedly the horse stands high in the public's favor. As an historic symbol of the West, it has captured the imagination of millions of Americans.

Yet there are other facts equally unescapable. The wild horse is a fierce competitor. Like all creatures, it has the reproductive capacity to increase its numbers to a point where it will become not only an economic threat to man and an ecological threat to the range and other animals, but also a threat to its own existence. Therefore, population control is vital to any management program.

BLM believes that it is possible to have an ecological balance between wild horses, wildlife, livestock and other resource values and that sound management is the answer. The Bureau is dedicated to such a program.

LANDMARKS OF A PAST
NOT YET FORGOTTEN I

Marble Quarry- White House Mountain

EVALINE A. OLSEN

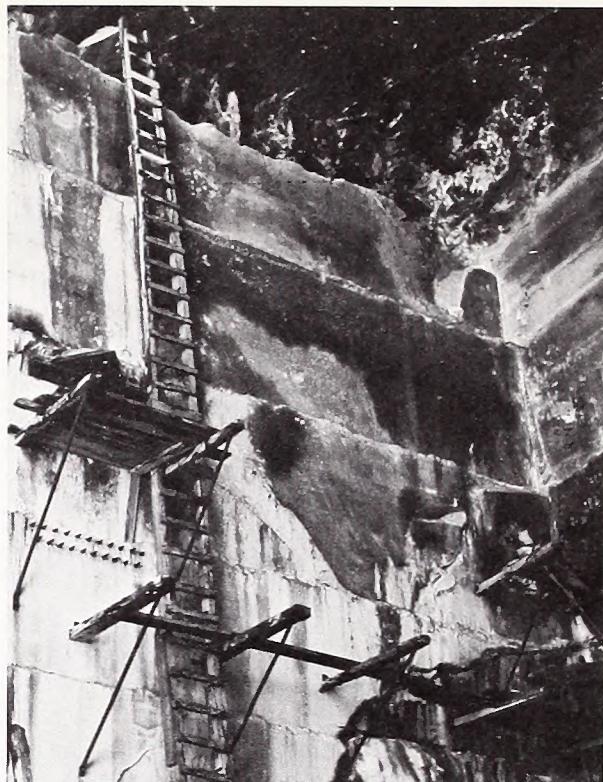
Colorado State Office

Mouldering through the years, ladder and scaffolding wait passively against the face of this abandoned marble quarry high on 14,000-foot White House Mountain. Here workmen toiled for an entire year to free a single flawless block of marble — the hardest marble on record, including the famed deposits of Carrara, Italy. That block now marks the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington's Arlington Cemetery.

It was Sylvester Richardson, a geologist who founded Gunnison, Colorado, who first recognized that White House Mountain was almost a solid mass of statuary marble. In 1876 he said that the average citizen of Gunnison could dwell in a marble hall at little expense. The marble deposit was rediscovered by George Yule who recognized its value. The creek and the deposit were named for him.

In 1890 the first mineral patent was granted to James J. Hagerman of the Colorado Midland Railroad. The railroad opened the quarries above the present town of Marble and huge blocks were hauled by wagon down a tortuous 25-mile mountain road to the railroad at Carbondale.

The quarry was the lifeblood of the small community. In 1910 it supported a population of 1500.



A decaying ladder and scaffolding are reminders of a bygone era in the marble quarry high on White House Mountain near Marble, Colorado.

When the quarry and the finishing mill shut down, only four souls remained to savor the majesty of the simple 1914 surroundings. The mill reopened in 1916 and 1,000 people returned to live off the earnings of the quarry.

The Custom House, the Colorado State Museum and other buildings in Denver were constructed with marble from the quarry. From the east and midwest came urgent requests for marble for buildings of prominence that would equal those already started in San Francisco and New York.

In 1916 the last big shipment, valued at \$1,070,000 left the quarry. It was used to build the Lincoln Memorial in the Nation's Capitol.

Today, Marble, Colorado has a new destiny. It is being reborn as a ski resort. The quarry, no longer producing, waits in splendid isolation along the primitive stretches of dashing Yule Creek.

JOETTE STORMS

Anchorage, Alaska District Office

Illustration by

JANELLE McCLAIN

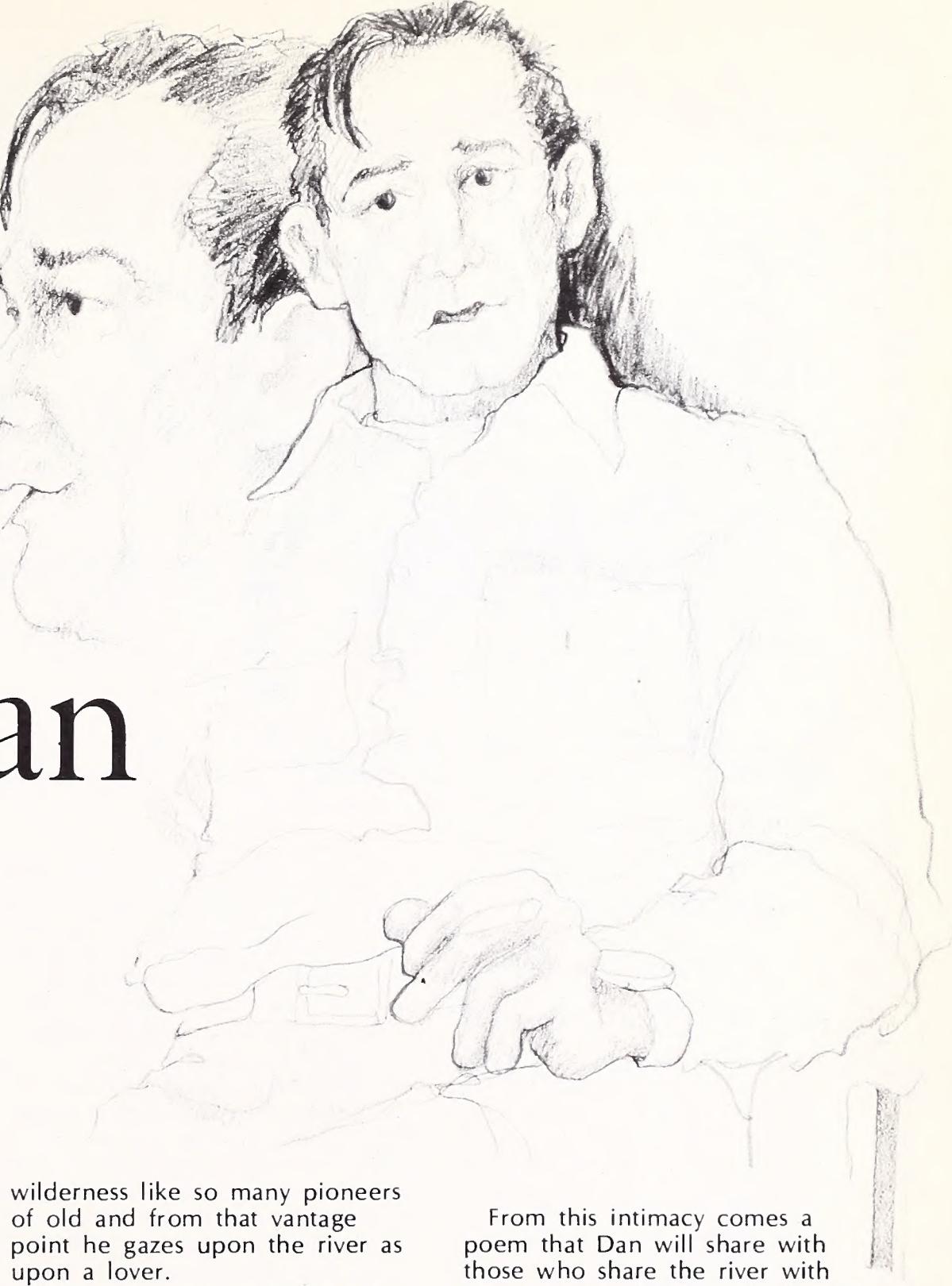
Alaska State Office

River Man

*Though he is skilled at many things,
When the hour comes late
And the evening brings
A kerosene lamp burning bright
His words are of the river
And its many delights
Huge black bear and Toklat
grizzlies,
Rapids that pose a dozen new
trials
Deep clear water stretching for
miles,
Red with salmon or rusty with ore
Once on the river, he longs for
more.*

On that day 11 years ago when Daniel Draper stepped through the brush to behold the Gulkana for the first time, he began a love affair with the river that can only be matched in legends. A tall, lanky fellow with a shock of black hair falling in his face, Dan has come to know every rock and boulder in the stream during the 52 and one-half times he has floated its upper reaches and countless other times on the lower river.

Although he has floated other rivers both inside Alaska and out, Dan made up his mind a long time ago that the Gulkana would be his home. With his family he carved a homestead out of the



wilderness like so many pioneers of old and from that vantage point he gazes upon the river as upon a lover.

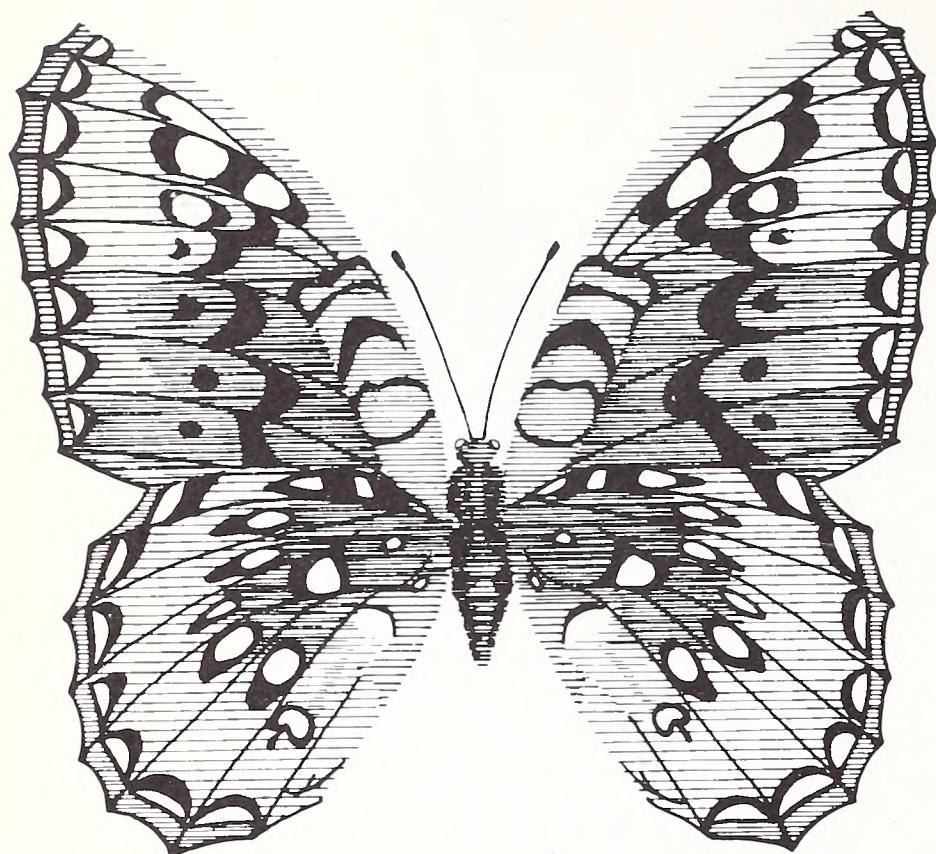
"If you're good to this river, this river will be good to you," he says. "It furnishes food, finance and beauty. For entertainment it provides an ever changing picture from my window."

Once, Dan says, he saw a fight between a bald and a golden eagle, a spectacle of raw will power that kept him spellbound. Another time he watched as thousands of caribou poured west across the river in their yearly migration from the calving grounds.

Few men in this modern age exhibit such a single-minded devotion to nature as Dan Draper. He has seen eagles soaring and grizzlies at night, and thrilled to the sight of the falcon high in the heavens.

From this intimacy comes a poem that Dan will share with those who share the river with him. In one of its lines, he boasts that the Gulkana will prove a man's mettle. "... this river belongs to the strong of heart. Men who are really apart." He himself has been tested by the river's swift flowing rapids and plummeting falls, yet he calls it "ideal" because even the novice can sample the joy of the river.

The Gulkana is more than just a challenge for Dan. He loves it for the pure, aesthetic sensations of air, water and silence. A purist, he dislikes sharing this paradise with mechanized craft and will win his point on the dangers they pose to his corridor of bliss with all who will listen. Yes, Dan Draper loves his Gulkana for the Gulkana is his life.



Butterflies Are Not Forever

BLM Wants to Preserve Rare Species of Butterfly

JACK B. O'BRIEN

Grand Junction, Colorado District Office

Personally I know of no one who does not like butterflies. They travel on delicate gossamer wings and please the eye with striking patterns of brilliant color.

Once when the earth had fewer people than it does today, butterflies could be taken for granted. The vast expanse of open space provided the variety of habitat the various species demanded. But man's recent activities have threatened one species called Nokomis Fritillary, or by the scientific name of *Speyeria nokomis nokomis*. Nokomis' threat presents the Bureau of Land Management with a unique management problem.

Nokomis Fritillary is a colorful creature. The males are a brilliant orange on the top of their wings and have silver patterns below. The females are black above and have silver spotting similar to the males below.

The species is dependent on a particular violet — *Viola nephrophylla* that grows in seep meadows found on National Resource Lands in BLM's Grand Junction District in Colorado. The female lays her eggs on the leaves of the violet, and the emerging larva feeds on the leaf while waiting for metamorphosis.

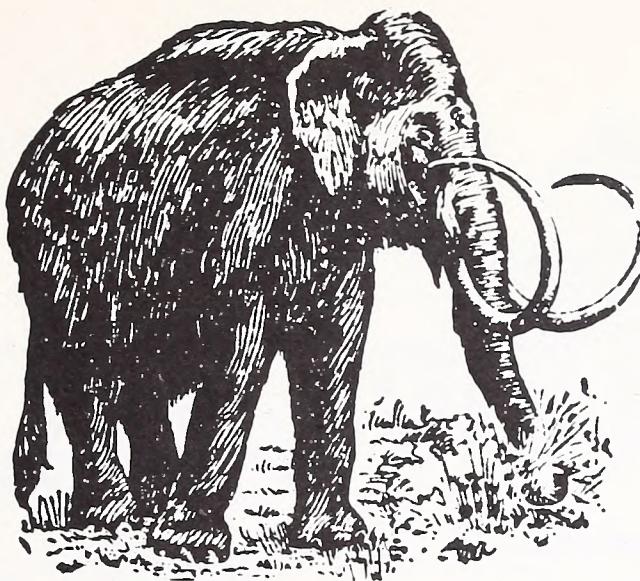
Habitat restrictions make Nokomis extremely vulnerable to certain kinds of development of the National Resource Lands. Springs that feed the seep meadows are sometimes tapped to provide water for man or livestock. When this is done, the meadows dry up and the violet cannot grow in the drier soil. In some cases, whole colonies of Nokomis have been wiped out.

Studies are now being made to determine if Nokomis should be included on the list of endangered species. If it is placed on that list, definite parameters will be set on any management decision affecting the butterfly or its habitat.

BLM's Grand Junction District Manager Tom Owens feels that these attractive insects must be considered before any decision affecting the National Resource Lands is made, but, he says, "I never thought the day would come when butterflies would be one of my problems."

Illustration by
Diane Colcord

BLM Denver Service Center



The Mammoth's Tusk

BLM Aids in Recovery of Fossil Mammoth Tusk

ANNE MULLINS

Fairbanks, Alaska District Office

Finding a mammoth tusk in Alaska is not uncommon, but finding a tusk on National Resource Lands where it can be studied seldom occurs.

Such a find was made in early August during an evaluation of the Squirrel River for wild and scenic river status by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in co-operation with the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The tusk, about six feet long and weighing about 150 pounds, was found lying in four feet of water in the bed of the river.

This portion of the Squirrel River, located near the village of Kiana, about 300 miles northwest of Fairbanks, was withdrawn in 1971 as part of the proposed Noatak National Arctic Range under provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Act.

BLM flew a team of scientists from the University of Alaska to the site so that they could determine the significance of the find and try to pinpoint the spot along the riverbank where the tusk had lain before it was eroded away by the currents of the river. The

scientists found the site and also found several other fossil bones downstream from that point of origin.

"It was apparently a complete mammoth skeleton, which is unusual for Alaska deposits," Dr. R. D. Guthrie, a professor with the University of Alaska, explained, "but it had eroded from the bluff a number of years before and had deteriorated through stream action and exposure. It would have been an important find if we had found it earlier and worth a major excavation effort. As it is, the bones we have found will add to our knowledge of the prehistory of the area and will be used to make comparisons with other areas of the north."

The great woolly mammoth migrated to Alaska about 100,000 years ago. It resembled the Asiatic elephant with sloping back and a short head and trunk. It reached maturity at about 15 years of age and had a life span of about 60 years. When fully grown, the woolly mammoth could weigh up to 8,000 pounds and measure 10 feet tall at the shoulders. Its head seemed to be attached directly to the shoulders and its two great

tusks curved out and up. Tusks have been found that are 14 feet long and weigh 200 pounds.

The woolly was a grass eater. He used his tusks to fight other males in the herd and to fend off predators. The size of the tusk seems to have indicated the animal's rank in the herd.

One common theory is that early man hunted the mammoth for food and clothing and made use of its bones and hide for shelter. Such hunting pressure may have contributed to the animal becoming extinct about 10,000 years ago.

Today, mammoth and other fossils found on Federal land are protected under the Antiquities Act of 1906. The purpose of this act is to protect artifacts and fossils from destruction and sale and to preserve their scientific values for this and future generations.

After the scientific team finished its studies along the Squirrel River, BLM flew the tusk to Fairbanks. The tusk is now being cleaned and preserved. It will be placed in the University of Alaska Museum.



John Blankenship of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prepares the tusk to be transported to Fairbanks by a waiting BLM helicopter.



*The Continental
Soldiers Has*

Land

As frequently happened in the affairs of nations, the Revolution ended before the Continental Congress was prepared for peace. Engrossed in its efforts to raise men and money for the war effort, the Congress had given little thought as to how it would govern once the war was over. Not even the form of government had been decided. Nevertheless, commitments made during the war soon demanded attention after the war was over.

Among those promises was one made to American soldiers concerning land bonuses. In August of 1776, Congress had proposed

PAUL C. HERNDON

Office of Public Affairs

*Congress' Promise to Revolutionary
Shaped Public Land Policies*

for the Soldier

to give 50 acres of public land to any soldier who would desert the British Army. This was the first provision ever made for the disposition of public land by the new government, and, ironically, it was made at a time when there was no public land to give away.

The offer was aimed primarily at the mercenary Hessian soldiers that made up a good part of the British Army in North America. The Hessians were serving at the command of their Prince. The Prince was being paid by the British to furnish soldiers to fight the Revolution and few, if any, of these soldiers had any interest in the outcome of the war; many were serving against their will. On its face, the offer seemed like a good plan to induce wholesale desertions in the British ranks.

The plan didn't work very well. Perhaps the British Officers failed to inform their men about the advantages of desertion. A few Hessians made their way into the American lines, but desertions had no effect on the outcome of the war.

The promise of land made to the Hessians did attract the attention of rank and file Continental soldiers. They bitterly resented the fact that Congress had offered land to the enemy, but offered nothing for those who fought for the American cause. By September the grumbling had grown so loud that Congress yielded and promised land to its own soldiers.

Land bounties for soldiers was not a new thing. The promise of land had been used as early as 1675 by the British to induce enlistments into the military services. The practice had been continued during the French and Indian War, and even before Congress authorized the first military land bounties for the Revolution, the British had offered land to colonials who would fight on the side of the Crown.

The amount of land a soldier would receive depended on his rank. Eventually the offer was: to Major Generals, 1,100 acres; to Brigadier Generals, 850 acres; to Colonels, 500 acres; to Lieutenant Colonels, 450 acres; to Majors, 300 acres; to Captains, 300 acres; to Lieutenants, 200 acres; and to non-commissioned officers and privates, 100 acres.

In addition to the land offered by the Continental Congress, the individual states promised land to soldiers who fought in the various state regiments. There were wide discrepancies in the amount of land promised by the various states. The landless states like Maryland and Rhode Island were necessarily frugal, while those states with claims to western land were unnecessarily generous. A

private in the North Carolina militia could claim 640 acres of western land, but in Pennsylvania a private could claim only 200 acres. Many prospective soldiers shopped among the various states looking for the best deal; land warrants issued by Virginia were a thorn in the side of the Federal Government long after the War was over. In all cases, the land offered by the states was in addition to that offered by the Continental Congress.

States like Maryland were especially hard pressed to find recruits to fill the ranks of its militia. Most of present day Garrett County and a part of Allegany County were set aside to meet the State's military commitments, but it was the fear that the state might be forced to buy land to take care of her soldiers that caused Maryland to take such a firm stand in demanding that all states relinquish their claims to western land in favor of the Federal Government.

The Federal Government did not have so much as one acre of land to back up its promises at the time they were made since all western land was claimed by the individual states. However, New York ceded its claim to western land in 1780, a year before the war was over. The amount of land involved in the New York cession was not significant — this was the land known as the Erie Triangle, and it was eventually purchased by the State of Pennsylvania — but the cession started a trend that other states soon followed, and Congress was soon blessed with an abundance of land — far more than was needed to meet its commitments to its veterans.

When discharged, the individual soldier was issued a warrant redeemable in public land. The amount of land he was due was set forth on the face of the warrant. In actual practice a large percentage of the soldiers never took title to the land their government owed them. There were many reasons. Some were reluctant to leave the communities where they were known and established. Many were reluctant to expose their families to the hardships and dangers of the frontier,



but more important was the time it took the Government to make land available for the soldier's use. Congress did not adopt a system for disposal of western lands until 1785, and only then was land set aside for the purpose of honoring military warrants.

The delay was not entirely the fault of Congress. It took years to clear Indian title to the land and even longer to make them safe for settlement. In 1787 — six years after Yorktown — military tracts in Ohio had to be abandoned because of Indian uprisings. The time involved in making boundary surveys of public land was another reason for delay. The Ordinance of 1785 made the survey of public lands a prerequisite to settlement of all the public domain.

It was not until 1796 that military tracts in Ohio were made safe for settlement. Even then the veteran found that he still faced problems when he went to exchange his warrant for land.

The first military tract was surveyed into townships five miles square. The minimum amount of land that could be purchased in a single transaction was one-quarter township of approximately 4,000 acres. The veteran with a warrant calling for a mere 100 acres had to find others willing to pool their warrants before he could secure land.

This strange provision was to have a lasting effect on the landscape that is still visible when one flies over the area. Instead of the cross hatch of boundaries typical of areas where the rectilinear system of survey has been used, these boundaries meander along the natural features of the landscape. Once a group of veterans had pooled their warrants and obtained a square quarter township, they then subdivided within the tract according to their individual needs or according to whatever compromises they could work out with their neighbors. At any rate, property lines were seldom straight and corners were seldom square.

All of these difficulties worked against the veteran exchanging his warrant for actual land. Most veterans

sold their warrants to speculators for a fraction of their value. Between 1793 and 1795 military warrants sold for 10¢ per acre of what was shown on their face. In short, a warrant calling for 100 acres could be purchased for \$10.

In commenting on the benefits the veterans received from their military bounties, Paul Gates in the History of Public Land Law Development says:

"The whole history of bounty land grants is marked by the efforts of speculators, politicians, brokers and other dealers in land paper to take advantage of unsophisticated people who did not know how to obtain their warrants or how to market them. On the other hand many veterans did receive perhaps a fair return for their rights; a few did enter lands in the west with their warrants to get land there at lower prices than the Government minimum. But the cost to the country was out of proportion to the benefits obtained by those the legislation was intended to assist."

If the veteran did not get the benefit of his military land warrant, who did?

For the most part, the benefits went to the speculator and the land locator.

Speculators took advantage of the veteran's reluctance to go west, or of his need for ready cash to secure warrants. Some resold these warrants for a profit, others took title to vast tracts of land in the hope that land values would rise. In later years there were brokerage houses in all of the major cities that bought and sold military land warrants. One such firm, the New York and Boston Illinois Land Company, acquired title to more than 900,000 acres of western land.

The land locator, also called a "land looker," was a man who made a profession of finding tracts of public land for his clients. The easterner who arrived on the frontier with a land warrant was often confused by the strange new country. He had no way of knowing whether he should go north, south, east or west to find fertile soil. The "locator" was his

answer. For a fee, usually a certain percentage of the land authorized by the warrant, the locator would lead his client to a choice tract. The locator also served as an agent for those speculators who bought military warrants in the east with no intention of going west. The locator became their field representative. He found the land, secured the patent, paid the taxes and tried to get squatters either to move on, or at least accept the role of a tenant farmer. Many land locators became wealthy and secured great estates. Within the Virginia Military Tract, 25 percent of the total land area was patented to 25 individuals (most of them in estates that totaled more than 1 million acres of land).

Yet, despite obvious flaws in the system, the practice of granting land bounties to soldiers continued through the War of 1812, the war with Mexico, and finally came to an end after the Black Hawk Indian War of 1832. (See Mr. Lincoln's Acres, Our Public Lands, Spring 1975.) After the Civil War soldiers were granted certain concessions in the homesteading of public land, but no military land grants were issued.

The practice of granting military land bounties had a profound effect on the Nation's developing land picture. In both Tennessee and Kentucky the commitments to soldiers from North Carolina and Virginia prevented the Federal Government from exercising control over the public domain within those states. (See Virginia and North Carolina Honored their Vows, "Our Public Lands," Winter 1974.)

In 1955 Congress set January 1, 1970 as the deadline for the Bureau of Land Management to honor military land scrip and December 31, 1974 as the deadline to honor claims for soldier's additional homestead land allowed to soldiers of the Civil War. At the same time it voided all claims not recorded by those dates. In subsequent wars, the Nation has found other ways to award its veterans and military land grants have ceased to be a factor in the disposal of the public domain.

Public Land Sales

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ALASKA:
555 Cordova St.
Anchorage, Alaska
99501
District Manager

P.O. Box 1150
Fairbanks, Alaska
99701

ARIZONA:
Federal Bldg.,
Room 3022
Phoenix, Ariz. 85025

CALIFORNIA:
2800 Cottage Way,
Room E-2841
Sacramento, Calif.
95825

COLORADO:
1600 Broadway
Room 700
Denver, Colo. 80202

IDAHO:
Federal Bldg.,
Room 334
550 W. Fort St.
Boise, Idaho 83702

MONTANA (N. Dak.,
S. Dak.):
Federal Bldg.
316 North 26th St.
Billings, Mont. 59101

NEVADA:
Federal Bldg.,
300 Booth St.
Reno, Nev. 89502

NEW MEXICO (Okla.):
Federal Bldg.
P.O. Box 1449
Santa Fe, N. Mex.
87501

OREGON (Washington):
729 Northeast
Oregon St.
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, Oreg. 97208

UTAH:
Federal Bldg.
125 South State St.
P.O. Box 11505
Salt Lake City, Utah
84111

WYOMING (Nebr.,
Kans.):
2120 Capitol Ave.
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, Wyo.
82001

EASTERN STATES (All
Other States):
7981 Eastern Avenue
Silver Spring, Md.
20910

Adjoining landowners have first rights in purchasing public land advertised for sale, and in many cases will prefer to exercise this right.

CALIFORNIA

19 acre parcel, 1 mile north Nevada City, Nevada County. Rough, rolling land with brush and Ponderosa Pine. No public road access. Suitable for subdividing, but sold as one parcel. Appraised value \$17,400. Further information available from California State Office. Refer to S 4757. Sale April 29.

LOUISIANA

Four parcels. Approximately 10 acres each. All located in Natchitoches Parish in west central Louisiana. Parcels are part of a recently surveyed strip of land lying between two previously surveyed townships. Each parcel approximately 1320' x 350'. Covered with pine, hardwoods, brush and native grass.

Parcel C — Forested; 450' to nearest access. Appraised value \$2700.

Parcel D — Sparse to moderate forest; legal access. Appraised value \$3800.

Parcel H — Sparse forest and pasture; legal access. Appraised value \$3600.

Parcel Q — Moderate forest; 2100' to nearest access. Appraised value \$1500.

Sale held third Wednesday of each month until all parcels sold. Additional information Eastern States Office. Refer to ES 10215.

OREGON

5.69 acres. 6 1/2 miles southwest of McMinnville, Oregon in Yamhill County. Southfacing slope, steep to moderately steep. Cover, native grasses with patches of oak, maple and Douglas fir. No legal access. Requests for county building permits will likely be denied due to shallow soil. Appraised value \$2,000. Additional information from Oregon State Office. Sale August 10, 1976.

This is a compilation of the most up-to-date information possible on up-coming sales of public lands by State Offices of the Bureau of Land Management. For details of land descriptions, prices, and other information pertinent to sales, you must write the individual State Office concerned. In most cases, there are adjoining landowners who have statutory preference rights and may wish to exercise them to buy the land. Sales notices will point out, insofar as possible, problems relating to (1) access, (2) adjoining owner preference rights, (3) small-tract sales limitation of one per customer, and other pertinent information. When possible, all sales are scheduled far enough in advance so ample notice can be given in Our Public Lands. Sales listed can be canceled on short notice for administrative and technical reasons. A listing of BLM State Offices with addresses is found on the opposite page.

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